



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAR 15 2006

Honorable Wayne J. Hall Sr., Mayor
Incorporated Village of Hempstead
Village Hall
99 Nichols Court, P.O. Box 32
Hempstead, New York 11551-0032

Dear Mayor Hall:

This is in regard to a request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) from substantive environmental review requirements, pursuant to 40 CFR Part 6, for the proposed improvements to the water supply system in the Incorporated Village of Hempstead, Nassau County, New York. The estimated total cost of the project is \$6,250,000, of which \$3,423,750 is being funded under federal Special Appropriation Grant No. XP982080-99.

Based on our review of the supporting documentation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approves the request for the CATEX. The grant recipient is responsible for making this approval and the supporting documents available at local repositories, and for advertising the decision in the local press to indicate the availability of the supporting documentation for public review.

Please be reminded that EPA may revoke this CATEX if any of the following conditions occur:

- changes in the proposed action render it ineligible for exclusion;
- new evidence indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

Should you have any questions regarding this decision, please address them to John Filippelli, Chief, Strategic Planning and Multi-Media Programs Branch, at the above address.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan J. Steinberg".

Alan J. Steinberg
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Richard Lorenz, Supervisor (w/enclosure)

ENCLOSURE

**Incorporated Village of Hempstead
Water Supply System Improvements
Nassau County, New York
Special Appropriation Grant No. XP982080-99**

Background

The Village of Hempstead's water supply system has been deteriorating mechanically and structurally due to aging. Consequently, several problems need to be addressed. Corrosion on the Laurel Avenue elevated storage tank resulted in some structural deterioration and noncompliance with current Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards. Water meters throughout the Village have lost their accuracy. The open aeration basins need to be secured and the storage tanks for disinfection at the Clinton Street water plant need to meet the Nassau County Health Department stipulations on the use of chemicals other than chlorine gas.

Proposed Action

The proposed project consists of:

- ▶ Refurbishing the Laurel Avenue elevated storage tank with necessary repairs and minor modifications.
- ▶ Replacing water meters throughout the Village.
- ▶ Treatment basin reconditioning, and a metal frame vault structure at the Clinton Street site for protection from vandalism.
- ▶ Converting from chlorine gas to sodium hypochlorite (liquid chlorine bleach) and adding associated chlorination treatment equipment at the Clinton Street site.

Alternative Considered

In addition to the proposed action, the following alternative was evaluated and rejected for the reasons outlined.

Alternative 1: No action - This was rejected because it does not comply with OSHA standards, the Nassau County Health Department stipulations, and further postponement of repairs may result in substantial repairs for the Village's water system in the future.

Eligibility for Granting a Categorical Exclusion

The project meets the general Categorical Exclusion (CATEX) eligibility criteria found in 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). The regulations allow CATEXs for activities involving "actions which are solely directed toward . . . functional replacement of equipment, or . . . construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities."

Additionally, the available information on the proposed action indicates that the specific criteria for not granting a CATEX, found in 40 CFR 6.107(e), are not present. Specifically, the project will not result in a new or relocated discharge to surface or ground waters; will not increase the amount of pollutants discharged to receiving waters; and will not provide capacity to serve a population significantly greater than the existing population. Furthermore, there will be no significant adverse effects on cultural resources, endangered or threatened species, environmentally sensitive areas, or other environmentally important natural resource areas.

Conclusion

The proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion under 40 CFR 6.107(d)(1). Accordingly, EPA approves this request for a CATEX from detailed environmental review pursuant to our procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act.